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THE BRETHREN CHURCH.

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E. L. HILDEBRAND, }

April 2, 1890.

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THE WHOLE GOSPEL.

In the last three verses of the fourth chapter of Matthew we have a statement that "Jesus went about all Galilee preaching the gospel of the Kingdom," and healing the diseases of the people and relieving their sufferings, and dispelling their fears, so that he obtained great fame and many followers. It is to be remarked that all his miracles, without an exception, were performed for the relief of human misery. He himself suffered hunger while the wants of the multitude called from him the power that turned the few loaves and fishes into an abundance to supply the need of all. He bore his own afflictions and sorrows, but he was ever ready to heal the sick and relieve human suffering.

Perhaps the most astonishing of all his miracles, was his power over demons. These were not the simple lunatics, who acted without good sense. They were a class of beings, in the estimation of the Hebrews, who in the absence of any reason of their own, were possessed by, and instruments in the control of demons. All these our Savior dispossessed, and in addition gave the relieved subject a "right mind." No wonder that great multitudes should follow him from Galilee, from Decapolis, with its ten cities, from Jerusalem, and from Judea and beyond the Jordan.

He has the same power still, for we serve the living Christ. And as in the day of his personal presence among men his greatest works consisted in removing demons and evil spirits from the bodies of men, so in this day, his great power is still manifested in creating new hearts and new minds, and new affections in those who come to him for help. When Nicodemus came to Christ full of wonder and surprise at what he had seen and heard, he exclaimed "We know that thou art a teacher come from God, for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him." Why did Jesus answer him: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God?" What relevancy is there between the declaration of Nicodemus and the reply of Christ? There can be none unless the leading thought, namely the miraculous work of Christ will be carried with it. This we see in the response of Jesus: "Except a man be born again." Nicodemus so accepted the answer received, hence he marveled and doubted, and disputed in the presence of the great wonder worker. He had seen wonders in the earthly kingdom, now he is put to think of the great work of the kingdom of God. The great miracle of converting men and women from sin to holiness, from error to truth, from drunkenness to sobriety, from a life of prostitution and debauchery to a life of purity and uprightness had not yet been exhibited to him. It was beautifully taught him in the figure of the spiritual birth, and clearly illustrated in its effects in the words of Christ: "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." Thank God for the power he gave our Savior over wicked spirits. Thank God that he has not withdrawn that miraculous power from the world, but that men and women possessed of devils, whether one or seven, may still be relieved and set in their right mind by

coming to the great wonder Worker. They need only touch the hem of his garment: believe in his word, and they shall be made whole. He invites all who will, to come and find rest.

TO ELDER P. J. BROWN.

My DEAR BROTHER: I most sincerely appreciate your kindness in addressing the memorial of your lamented wife to me in person. And while I feel my loss keenly, many miles away from the scene of suffering, out of sight of the bereaved home and the vacant chair, and surrounded with the constant changes of a busy business life; what must be your feelings, in the house of mourning, amidst numerous reminiscences where methinks the brightest and gayest flowers cultured by her own hands, would wear a shade of sadness. Yes, I realize that I have lost a friend, and I mourn her as such; and furthermore I "weep with them that weep," and to whom she was more than a friend. I have tried to imagine what it must be to lose a wife, by putting myself in the place of those who have been bereft, and while I have been grieved, so as to be unable to restrain my feelings for the duties required of me, I know it is not possible for any one to fully realize the loss of a wife except by experience. She is more than a friend—and how great is the loss of a friend; she is more than a companion—and how lonely would life be without companionship. This was one of the causes of woman's creation, but she has proven to be more than she was created for. Adam said of her: "She is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh." She is nearer to man than any other relation of life. She is part of man; "his counterpart," the partner of his heart as well as of his home. When she is removed there is a vacancy in the heart. Taking her away is equivalent to an amputation of the most useful member of a man's being. No pen of man can exaggerate in eulogy the woman who is in every human sense a true wife. Such, to my observation, Margaret Brown was to you. And may the Holy Comforter help you to sustain your loss, by being to you a constant companion, a faithful adviser and a true friend.

We approve of the explanation you have given to the oft repeated question, why Mrs. Brown did not belong to the church in which her husband was an honored and influential minister. While some people may have attributed it to her lack of faith, it will please you, we know, that in our hearing no one ever censured her for unfaithfulness as a ministerial helpmeet. All who spoke of her bore testimony to her Christian fidelity as a wife, mother and neighbor. The reference to your early experience as a minister in the Dunkard church touched a tender spot in my heart. The deprivations of a self-sacrificing minister's home we have experienced, not as the husband, but as a son. And although 'twas many years ago, it is still fresh in memory, and through our tears we can see a weeping mother, after a "constable's sale," as her favorite cow was driven away by the satisfied creditor. I have no recollection of unallayed hunger on my own part. I can only remember by the effects of the experience upon my parents. Father's life was much like your own. He did not frequently go any great distance from home, but was for weeks in succession on local duties most of the time. I should love to spread before the Dunkard church the journal of a year's experience of my father, somewhere between 1844 and 1854. And it is to be feared that half as bad may still be seen not a thousand miles from Waterloo.

The woman who, having been educated to the doctrine and practices of the church from her childhood, and in the years of tender youth had attached herself to the church as her choice; and who, with her own free will and consent had married one of its ministers, knowing what she might expect, and discharges her duties without complaint, deserves a reward of eternal glory; but she who had not so learned Christ, whose mind had been left unprejudiced to the services of the church; who had married a man, expecting all his time and talents to be devoted to her and his family, and then had been deprived of these sacred rights by other relations which claimed his service; such a one would far excel her sister in faith, and exhibit a de-

gree of selfishness which might well be said to kiss the hand that afflicts, should she join the church which had defrauded her and her children of the comforts of home. Such denial the gospel does not demand, and I am happy to belong to a church that does not require more of our wives and sisters than the word of God exacts. Let us show our appreciation of its privileges by laboring to maintain its liberties.

SOLID SILVER SPOONS—FREE.

The firm who make the above offer in another part of our paper are perfectly reliable and the premium box which they send out contains not only all the Sweet Home Soap and fine Toilet Soaps and the list of miscellaneous articles contained in the advertisement, but also a set of Solid Silver Spoons. Subscribers who write to them are perfectly safe in sending in the order, and this is the best and best way (on account of the extra present given for goods from Messrs. Co., Buffalo, N. Y., who exhibit an enterprising desire to have their Soap which is almost

ANSWER: right. It was paid for.

On this balance of

One year was the EVANGELIST to the effect is

Brother J. Allen Miller's next appointment at the Bethel church, Ohio, will be on April 13th, at the usual hours.

Brother Hostetler goes to Waverly Junction next Friday, when it is expected the Sunday school will be reorganized.

Dear reader, do you not think you ought to do something towards sustaining the EVANGELIST besides reading it? If so, you not send at least one subscription?

Installation will be held at the Enon church next Sunday, when brother S. P. Stevens will take charge of the service. H. R. Holsinger will preach the installation sermon. Everybody is invited.

Brother John A. Myers, of Millersburg, Iowa, sends us a subscriber and says: "I vote for the EVANGELIST with one hand and wish I could with both." Thank you, brother Myers. Perhaps you can put the other hand up yet.

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A very one day last brother and sister. Some of the ne with their children them a surprise on the thirty-fifth anniversary of March. On account of the visit was deferred until the 10th, which, coupled with the surprise part of the affair, but a grand success, and all seemed to enjoy themselves. We know we did. May brother and sister Horner live to see their golden wedding, and enjoy each intervening anniversary as well as they did the last.

The first chapter of other Bashor's autobiography, this paper, is full of interest. It is the experience of many of the EVANGELIST readers, and the mind back to childhood. Our own memory has been awakened. "Wo-

again." No, that is not it. Rather, would that the recollections of our boyhood days would repeat themselves. Possibly, however, they would not appear to us now as they did then. With those scenes as with many others, it may be said that "distance lends enchantment to the view." We prefer, however, to believe that they will be all genuine, and we strive to cultivate the same confidence in the efforts to live devoted lives, by our fellows of the present day.

Our obituary notices this week announce the death of our esteemed brother, Samuel Grubb, whom we learned to know and love at North Liberty, Ohio. He was indeed a Christian, modest and gentle as a woman. Alas that so many of our dear good brethren and friends must be taken away, and yet they only are prepared to go. We could not have a better hope for any man in our acquaintance than we do have for brother Samuel Grubb. He was a just man and upright, and the Lord will reward him. Let his memory be revered and his beautiful example be emulated by the succeeding generations. The bereaved relatives have our warmest sympathies.

The sisters' department is becoming an established institution and we hope it may continue to grow in dimensions and interest. Sister Eby makes a good suggestion this week, in proposing a "shut in" corner. We approve of the suggestion. It affords an opportunity for a class who would not otherwise find opportunity to work. As, for instance, in two cases in this week's paper, those of sister Artz and sister Eby, both having been shut in for several months. They were among the most willing and successful church workers while in health, ever ready to lend a helping hand in every good work. Indeed, we do not see how brother Wolfe gets along without the assistance of either sisters Eby, Artz, Walker or Reyner.

We hope the sisters will continue to address each other in a straightforward, earnest manner, and we feel assured that much good will result. How many will respond to sister Eby? What have you to exchange, or give away, ladies? We will find room for all you may have to say, though we are well aware of the endless end of a woman's story when once she gets started. We have several short articles for next week. Matter for this department should reach us about one week previous to the date of the current issue.

Correspondence.

Things in General—Some things in Particular.

The First Brethren Church at Pittsburgh. You can help this church very much by sending to D. J. Bole, 249, 38th st., the names of any of your relatives or friends who may be members of the church, and are living in or near Pittsburgh; or the names of friends who may be favorable to the church. In this way our brethren can make their acquaintance and the good may be mutual. You say this is a point, and you will help the brethren. Then do so at once, for now is the time such help is needed. The prospect is good, and the work is developing; but it is the duty of the church at large to help the church in particular. Our brethren should build at once, and if each church will help a little the good work can go on. The opportunity in Pittsburgh is one of the finest in the brotherhood, and some effort from the right direction will plant seed that will be eternal. The church must work from the center out, and when we have a plant in great centers of population they must be watered and nourished, if the cause at large would grow. The church has done a good work, but she has not done enough, or gone far enough. There remains much land to possess. COURAGE, CHARITY and CASH will enable us to possess all the land God wants us to possess.

A Flourishing Green Tree. Brother J. T. Meyers from the Green tree church, paid me a short call last week. We have known each other for some years, and had quite a pleasant chat. The church is in a flourishing condition. During the past three years some ninety members have been received, and at present there are between thirty and forty applicants for baptism. This church is certainly doing her part toward the world's conversion. It is said by a noted preacher, that during the past twenty-five years the churches of the world have averaged only two conversions each a year, and very pointedly asks: "How soon at that rate, will this world be brought to God?" The churches need to wake up, and get to work for souls. Along many lines this is being

done, and a wonderful work is accomplished. Suppose every church could say what the Green tree church can say. The influence could be felt around the globe, and every church can say the same; but to say it, principle must be put above policy, and Christ above persons.

The Motive of Prayer. I read with much pleasure brother Beer's article on prayer, and agree with him in his points. While bowing is my choice, because strongly presented in scripture, yet the answer does not depend on the position, but on the motive. The publican prayed standing, Hezekiah prayed lying, David prayed sitting, Elijah prayed with his face between his knees; Paul prayed kneeling; the thief prayed hanging, and their prayers were answered, not because of their position, but because of their motive. That is the point God looks at in prayer. In prayer the letter killeth. It is the motive or spirit that giveth life. Some one has truly said: "God respected not the arithmetic of our prayers, how many they are; nor the rhetoric of our prayers, how neat they are; nor the geometry of our prayers, how long they are; nor the music of our prayers, how melodious they are; nor the logic of our prayers, how methodical they are; but the divinity of our prayers, how heart sprung they are. Not gifts, but graces prevail in prayer."

"Prayer is an armory of light; Let constant use but keep it bright, You'll find it yields To holy hands and humble hearts More swords and shields, Than sin hath snares or hell hath darts."

Devils Like Hawks. Devils are very much like hawks. In a farmyard, I saw a large bottle. The bottle was on a tall pole. It seemed very strange to see a bottle in such a position, though I thought it would be a good thing if that of which the bottle was an emblem, could be put out of the reach of those it hurt. I soon found that the lady of the house did quite a business in raising chickens, and the chickens were frequently visited by the hawks. To keep the thieves away the bottle was placed on a pole. The sun shining on the bottle was reflected by the glass, and the hawks seeing the reflected rays of sunshine were afraid to come near the chicken yard. Devils are like hawks, they are afraid of reflected sunshine. In prayer bright rays from the sun of righteousness are gathered up. They are to be reflected, and satanic workers, seeing Christ reflected, will leave. This has been tried repeatedly and never failed. It is not our own, but reflected strength that does the work; not I, but Christ. Through him we can do all things, for with God all things are possible.

The Fatal Nest. Speaking of trees and hawks reminds me of a tree I saw in Maryland, standing not far from an arm of the bay. It was a large tree, and at one time was in a flourishing condition, but when I saw it there was not a live limb about it. The great trunk and its numerous branches were dead. No ax had been placed to its root; no fire had encircled it, but it was dead, killed by fish hawks. In the top was a nest; the home of fish hawks. In bringing fish to their young, the salt water was scattered over the tree. Very few drops at first, but kept up for years, they killed the tree. Some people are just like those hawks. They come into the church and build their nests, and carry into it foreign matter, which brings death to the happiness and prosperity of the church. The trouble with many churches, is not their principles; they are all right; but men with selfish motives build nests, care for those only in the nests, and the result is confusion, if not death. Why kill a good tree for the sake of a fish hawk's nest?

The Rum Fiend. There is no enemy like him, when once he gets man in his clutches. Here in my city, I was called on to help close a saloon. The family consisted of husband, brother, and son, with the wife. The husband made three dollars per day; the brother made three dollars, and the son made two dollars and fifty cents, over fifty dollars per month; yet the woman wears an old dress patched, and stockings made over, after being worn by others. The money goes into a rum shop. No wonder the woman after recovering from sickness said: "I wish I had died when I was sick." The rum power is one of Satan's nests, and in feeding his own, he is bringing ruin to others—death, physical, mental, and spiritual.

"My native land! midst thy calm homes, Amid thy palaces a demon roams; Frenzied with rage, yet subtle in his wrath, He crushes thousands in his fiery path; Stalks through our cities unheeded and throws Into the cup of sorrow bitter-ness— Gives to pang of grief an added smart; With keenest anguish rings the breaking heart, Drags the proud spirit from its exalted height, And breeds on fondest hope a chilling blight, Herald of the shroud, the coffin, and the pall, And the graves thicken when his footsteps fall!"

JOHN DUE MCFADEEN.

Philadelphia, Pa.

From Brighton, Ind.

Our editor has kindly requested from all the churches, that some one report to the EVANGELIST how we prosper spiritually. We say amen to that, for we always live to see the EVANGELIST full of good reports from the different congregations. It is quite a while since we saw any reports through the EVANGELIST from Brighton. Nevertheless we are yet alive, and still continue our spiritual work, working for our Master.

Our Evergreen union Sunday school is a blessing to this community. It has been almost as green during the winter as in summer. It is the only Sunday school in this community that